

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-7 and 9-14 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 2-7 and 9-14 have been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 1, 8 and 14 stand objected to for grammar errors. The claims have been amended or canceled, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa, U.S. Patent No. 5838,833. Claims 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Barnsley, U.S. Patent No. 5,065,447. These rejections are overcome in part and traversed in part.

Claims 5-7 have been amended to be independent form, and each further define what is meant by “an attribute of the data.” According to claim 5, for example, the size of the block of the data to be compressed depends on whether the data is in monochrome or color. Ishikawa, on the other hand, varies the size of range blocks in accordance with area discrimination, and more specifically, in accordance with whether an area is an edge area (col. 2, line 56 to col. 3 lines 7). Ishikawa does not vary the size of the range blocks in accordance with whether the data is in monochrome or color. Further, merely because Ishikawa describes that the various patterns may be prepared from black and white binary images (col. 4, lines 15-16, as cited by the Examiner), does not mean that Ishikawa varies the blocks in accordance with whether the image is in monochrome or color. Further, there would have been no motivation to have modified Ishikawa to vary the size of the blocks for compression based on any criteria other than whether an area is an edge area. Thus, the cited art does not teach or suggest the features of claim 5, either alone or in combination.

Claims 6 and 7 also define the claimed “attribute of the data” in a manner which defines over the cited art, and are therefore allowable for the reasons set forth above. Claims 12, 13 and 14 are method claims which correspond to claims 5, 6 and 7, respectively, and are allowable for these reasons as well.

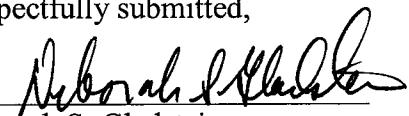
The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that all rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772034800.

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Respectfully submitted,

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